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CLAIMS

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1. A disposable lancet device for piercing human skin comprising:
a lancet housing,
5 a lancet body displaceably supported by the housing and having a piercing tip which is concealed within the housing in a rest position of the body, operating means engaged with the lancet body for manually displacing the lancet body to expose the piercing tip, and biasing means against which the lancet body operates as it is manually displaced to expose the piercing tip whereby the biasing means automatically retracts the lancet body to its rest position when the manual displacement force is removed from the operating means,
10 wherein the operating means is adapted to be disengaged from the lancet body after use to prevent subsequent manual displacement of the lancet body from its rest position.
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2. A disposable lancet device according to claim 1, wherein manual force applied to the operating means is translated to the lancet body for displacing the lancet body from its rest position.
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3. A disposable lancet device according to claim 1, wherein the biasing means holds the lancet body in its rest position.
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4. A disposable lancet device according to claim 1, wherein the biasing means comprises at least one resilient projection extending from the lancet body, wherein the resilient projection is deformed by a portion of the housing when the lancet body is displaced from its rest position.
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5. A disposable lancet device according to claim 1, wherein the biasing means comprises at least one resilient projection extending from the housing, wherein the resilient projection is deformed by a portion of the lancet body when the lancet body is displaced

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from its rest position.

6. A disposable lancet device according to claim 1, wherein the biasing means comprises a coil spring.

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7. A disposable lancet device according to claim 1, wherein the lancet body is supported for linear displacement by the housing.

8. A disposable lancet device according to claim 1, wherein the operating means is
10 disposed on the axis of displacement of the lancet body.

9. A disposable lancet device according to claim 1, wherein the lancet body, operating means and piercing tip form a generally elongate member.

15 10. A disposable lancet device according to claim 1, wherein the lancet body is non-linearly displaceable.

11. A disposable lancet device according to claim 10, wherein the operating means projects from the housing to one side of the lancet body.

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12. A disposable lancet device according to claim 1, wherein the operating means is integrally moulded with the lancet body.

25 13. A disposable lancet device according to claim 12, wherein the operating means is breakable from the lancet body at a line of weakness at or adjacent the juncture of the lancet body with the housing when the lancet body is in its rest position.

14. A disposable lancet device according to claim 1, wherein the operating means is connected to the lancet body by a connection device.

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15. A disposable lancet device according to claim 14, wherein the connection device is

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a snap engaging connection or screw thread.

16. A disposable lancet device according to claim 1, wherein the piercing tip is secured to the lancet body.

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17. A disposable lancet device according to claim 1, wherein the piercing tip is integral with the lancet body.

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18. A disposable lancet device according to claim 16, wherein the lancet body is moulded around a mounting portion of the tip.

19. A disposable lancet device according to claim 1, wherein the piercing tip and lancet body are moulded from the same or different plastics material selected from polycarbonate, polystyrene and polypropylene.

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20. A disposable lancet device according to claim 18, wherein the piercing tip is formed of metal, preferably stainless steel.

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21. A disposable lancet device according to claim 1, wherein the piercing tip has a cylindrical body tapering to a pointed end.

22. A disposable lancet device according to claim 1, wherein the piercing tip is multi-sided.

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23. A disposable lancet device according to claim 22, wherein the tip is pyramidal or flat with sharp leading edges..